

## Testimony From Priscilla Erban, R.N.

Good Evening, my name is Priscilla Erban and I live in Lawrence and I am an R.N. at Lawrence General Hospital, where I have been working for 30 years. For many of my 30 years at Lawrence General, I worked on in-patient units, both the surgical and medical units, providing high quality care to all of my patients. Many of whom are Latinos and under-insured, on government sponsored healthcare programs. I currently work in an ambulatory setting which prepares patients for many invasive tests, such as Cardiac Catheterization and biopsies, along with other patients who require out-patient intravenous therapy to allow life saving medications to be administered, while they remain at home and in the community, out of the hospital.

I am very concerned about a Wall Street venture capital firm, Cerebus, acquiring a hospital in our area. This purchase if not carefully regulated will put profits ahead of people and their need for accessible, high quality medical care. I am concerned that a company whose main motive is to generate profits for it's investors will reduce the access to the care needed by so many of our region's citizens. They might say, everything will remain the same, but we all know it won't remain the same. I think this transition from a not for profit, mission driven healthcare organization to a For Profit, investor owned, New York based, chain of hospitals will the reduce access, and will seriously affect the availability and quality of healthcare in our region.

The Attorney General must place conditions on the sale of Caritas hospitals, such that access is preserved and all of the services that are currently provided to Lawrence and Methuen residents remain in order to continue to improve the overall health of our community and its residents now and well into the future.

If conditions are not imposed on this sale, by the Attorney General, then we may see a large For Profit Healthcare System, which can pressure insurance companies on higher payments for services, which in turn, could seriously affect the ability of Lawrence General Hospital to remain a viable and competitive healthcare provider.

This area needs both of our hospitals in order to insure that we meet the needs of our communities.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Priscilla Erban".

Priscilla Erban

9 Moran Court

Lawrence, MA